

REPORT TO THE BCT FOUNDATION ON THE VISIT OF PROFESSOR NORMAN COHN.
c/o Faculty of Arts and Science, Concordia University

Professor Cohn arrived in Montreal on February 14th and left on the 20th. During that time he read four papers that had been publicised on the enclosed poster, and they were attended by about 520-550 people. It was impossible to make an exact count because people were sitting on the steps and floors of the auditoria as well as standing outside the doors. These audiences included not only students and faculty of Concordia, but also visitors from McGill, U. of Montreal, UQAM, several CEGEPs and high schools, as well as several colleagues from out-of-town universities; among the latter, Toronto, McMaster, and Dartmouth can be mentioned because these colleagues identified themselves to us afterwards.

These talks and the ensuing discussions were recorded on audio-tape. Copies of these cassettes and of the typescripts are available in both the Norris and the Vanier libraries so that they may also be used by future students.

In addition to his public lectures, Professor Cohn also visited History 322/3 (The History of Medieval Europe). In response to special requests, he also made himself available on two mornings to students and colleagues who had requested an opportunity to discuss with him either their own work or some questions arising out of Professor Cohn's work.

In view of his published work, it was not really surprising that his visit produced overflow crowds, long question periods, and enthusiastic applause. What was surprising was the composition of the audiences; in addition to students and colleagues from the four sponsoring departments of history, sociology, psychology, and religion, the audiences included admirers from such widely differing areas as English and Mathematics, Art History and Economics.

One of the amusing aspects of this visit was the reaction of some of our own students. The invitation arose out of our reading and discussion of some of Professor Cohn's work in our course on the "History and Sociology of Genocide". While our students were excited about the prospect of meeting Professor Cohn in person, they had not anticipated that they would be so badly out-numbered by his other admirers.

We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to the Faculty of Arts and Sciences which has made this visit possible. We also wish to include with this report the attached proposal that arose out of the discussions with Professor Cohn during his visit.

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